and hilly areas in the country especially in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to accord the status at National Highways to Shimla-Rohru and Rampur-Rohru roads at Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) whether it is a fact that if the status of National Highways is accorded this would result in huge benefits to the farmers in villages along these roads and development would also benefit as the areas along these roads hold great tourism potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING , ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) This Department is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. The development of National Highways is taken up on a national perspective and is not based on the demographic or geographical status of different regions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

NHs damaged in Rajasthan

†4697. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING , ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways have been damaged in Rajasthan due to heavy rains in the State in the year, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the damaged roads National Highway-wise;

(c) whether proposals for allocation of funds under flood relief works to repair said damaged roads have been sent by the State Government of Rajasthan; and

(d) the amount allocated by the Centre for repair of National Highways damaged due to flood in the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Due

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to the unprecedented rains during the year 2006-07 in Western & Southern districts of Rajasthan, there were breaches at some locations of Jaisalmer-Barmer-section of National Highway(NH) 15 and submergence due to flood water near village Kawas on NH-112. Two major bridges on NH 14 were partially washed away. There were also surface damages to the pavement in the form of potholes, patches etc. and minor damages to CD works mainly on NH 12, 14, 15, 65, 79, 90, 112 and 113.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A sum of Rs. 8.00 crore was allocated to the State of Rajasthan during the year 2006-07 for flood damage repair.

Surface improvement work on roads

†4698. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that surface improvement works on roads of National Highways identified under NHDP have not been cleared by Government; and

(b) if so, who is responsible for the poor condition of the national highways for want of proper maintenance during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Wherever 4/6 laning works under NHDP are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition, the maintenance of existing roads are carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/ concession agreement. In case of sections identificed under NHDP where 4/6 laning has not yet started, the maintenance of existing roads are beign carried out by NHAI, State Public Works Departments (PWDs)/ Border Road Organisation (BRO) through funds provided by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

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